

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hierarchical document cross-referencing system comprising:

a document server computer accessible by a user computer, said document server computer comprising:

5 a database which stores the contents of a first document and a second document wherein said first document and said second document each includes one or more segments; and

a module executable in said document server computer wherein said module is configured to receive a request to search said first document and said second document for a key phrase, said module searches said first document and said second document for said key phrase, said module identifying said segments containing said key phrase, said module displaying on said user computer a side-by-side display wherein said side-by-side display lists said identified segments from said first document in a first list and said identified segments from said second document in a second list.

10 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein said module is further configured to receive a request to display on said user computer a side-by-side display of additional details of one or more of said identified segments from said first document and additional details of one or more of said identified segments from said second document.

3. A system for cross-referencing electronic data, said system comprising:

a server computer remotely accessible by a user computer, said server computer comprising:

25 a database which stores said electronic data in a first data set and a second data set, wherein said first data set and said second data set each include one or more divisions; and

a module executable in said server computer wherein said module is configured to receive a request to search said first data set and said second data set for a search term, said module searches said first data set and said second data set for said search term, said module identifies said

one or more divisions that contain said search term, and said module displays said identified divisions in a side-by-side display in response to a request to search for said search term.

5 4. The system of Claim 3, wherein said one or more divisions in said first or second data set are one or more document categories.

 5. The system of Claim 3, wherein said one or more divisions in said first or second data set are one or more documents.

 6. The system of Claim 3, wherein said one or more divisions in said first or second data set are one or more segments.

10 7. The system of Claim 3, wherein said identified divisions in said first or second data set are further distinguished in said side-by-side display.

 8. The system of Claim 1, wherein said first document comprises a document selected from the group consisting of text document, graphic document, audio document, video document and audiovisual document.

15 9. The system of Claim 8, wherein said second document comprises a document selected from the group consisting of text document, graphic document, audio document, video document and audiovisual document.

 10. The system of Claim 1, wherein said first document and said second document together total at least 50 pages in length.

20 11. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said first document and said second document is at least 50 pages in length.

 12. The system of Claim 1, wherein said first document and said second document comprise different types of documents.

25 13. A hierarchical document cross-referencing system comprising:
a document server computer remotely accessible over a communication medium, said document server computer comprising:

 a database which stores a first document and a second document, wherein said first document and said second document include a plurality of segments identified by segment identifiers; and

30 a module executable in said document server computer wherein said module is configured to receive a request to search said first

document and said second document for a search phrase, said module searches said first document and said second document for said search phrase, and said module displays said segment identifiers for said segments containing said search phrase in a display.

5 14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said display is a side-by-side display.

15. The system of Claim 13, wherein said module is further configured to receive a request to display said segments containing said search phrase in a side-by-side display.

10 16. The system of Claim 13, wherein said first document comprises a document selected from the group consisting of text document, graphic document, audio document, video document and audiovisual document.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein said second document comprises a document selected from the group consisting of text document, graphic document, audio document, video document and audiovisual document.

15 18. The system of Claim 13, wherein said first document and said second document together total at least 50 pages in length.

19. The system of Claim 13, wherein at least one of said first document and said second document is at least 50 pages in length.

20 20. The system of Claim 13, wherein said first document and said second document comprise different types of documents.

25 21. A hierarchical cross-referencing system, comprising a module executable in a document server computer, wherein said module is configured to receive a request to search a first hierarchy and a second hierarchy for a search term, said module displaying one or more elements in said first and second hierarchies containing said search term in a side-by-side display in response to receiving said request to search said first and second hierarchies.

22. A method of cross-referencing first and second hierarchies wherein said first and said second hierarchies each include one or more elements, said method comprising:

30 receiving a request to search said first and said second hierarchies for a search term;

searching said first and said second hierarchies for said search term;
identifying which of said elements within said first and second
hierarchies contain said search term; and
displaying said identified elements in a side-by-side display.

5 23. A method of cross-referencing first and second hierarchies wherein said
first and said second hierarchies each include one or more elements denominated by
element labels, said method comprising:

receiving a request to search said first and said second hierarchies for a
search term;

10 searching said first and said second hierarchies for said search term;
identifying which of said elements within said first and second
hierarchies contain said search term;
displaying said element labels associated with said identified elements in
a side-by-side display;

15 receiving a request to display said identified elements; and
displaying said identified elements in a side-by-side display.

24. A hierarchical document cross-referencing system comprising:

a document server computer remotely accessible by a user computer, said
document server computer comprising:

20 a database which stores the contents of a plurality of documents
wherein each of said plurality of documents includes one or more
segments; and

a module executable in said document server computer wherein
said module is configured to receive a request to search said plurality of
25 documents for a key phrase, said module searches said plurality of
documents for said key phrase, said module identifying said segments
containing said key phrase, said module displaying on said user
computer a side-by-side display wherein said side-by-side display
contains a plurality of side-by-side lists of said identified segments that
30 correspond to each of said plurality of documents.

25. The system of Claim 1, wherein said module is further configured to receive a request to display on said user computer a side-by-side display of additional details of one or more of said identified segments from said first document and additional details of one or more of said identified segments from said second document.

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